
INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

OF PLANT PROTECTION

DISCOVERIES AND CURRENT EVENTS *

Algeria: Swarms of Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) during February, 1929 (1).

February 9: A swarm of red locusts of considerable size passed over Hassi-Boukhalala and Hassi-Meharzi, in the region of Timimoun, coming from the west and flying in an easterly direction.

February 14: A swarm of locusts flying in a northerly direction appeared over Abadla and Guir, Colomb-Béchar.

February 15: A swarm of locusts flying in a northerly direction appeared over Meridja, Colomb-Béchar.

February 16:— A small swarm of locusts alighted on cultivated land at El-Ouedj, Béni-Ouif. Most of the insects were destroyed, but a small swarm has flown in a north-easterly direction.

Dutch East Indies: A New Disease of *Hevea brasiliensis* in Sumatra (2).

The *Oidium* disease of the *Hevea brasiliensis*, which was first observed in East Java, has spread in the last few years westward and is now present practically on all the estates in Java.

Up till recently *Oidium* was not observed in Sumatra. In January of this year however it was observed for the first time on a few *Hevea* trees in Assahan (south from Deli).

Italy: Phytopathological Notes (3).

The Royal Station of Plant Pathology at Rome has received no reports of new invasions of pests nor of any epidemics of cryptogamic parasites during March, 1929.

Further notices are still being received of the serious damage caused by the excessive cold to olives, vines and fruit trees.

The Royal Phytopathological Observatory at Turin sends in the following report on the subject:—

The prolonged extreme temperatures of the end of January, which became even lower during February, have had an appreciable effect on the old trees producing deep longitudinal cracks on the trunks, more particularly of planes, willows, poplars (specially Canadian poplars) mulberries, alders, oaks and also on some horse chestnuts.

* In this, as in the third chapter, the countries are arranged in the French alphabetical order.

(1) Communication from the Governor General of Algeria to the President of the International Institute of Agriculture.

(2) Communication from the official correspondent to the Institute, Dr. C. J. J. VAN HALL, Baarn.

(3) Communication from the Royal Station of Plant Pathology at Rome, official correspondent of the Institute.

The damage has been felt more in the moist plains than in the mountains. The effects of frost appeared on the trunks along whole rows of willows by the side of field dykes. Planes planted along roads in town and country which have a hollowed trough at the foot have also suffered, possibly because the additional moisture made them more sensitive to frost. The cracks extend as much as two or three metres in length and were undoubtedly produced during the middle weeks of January and February.

Plantations of young peaches were also damaged by the excessive frosts, the leaders being killed to a length of 20 to 25 cm. Several of them were completely killed. Similar cases have been reported from nurseries of forest trees; amongst them *Cupressus* plants appear to be particularly sensitive to frost.

Consignments of imported plants have also been damaged by the frost and a rot set up in flower bulbs.

In stores which were not well protected potato tubers have been spoilt by the frost and oleaginous seeds, such as hemp, altered and made largely incapable of germination.

VARIOUS QUESTIONS

The International Convention for Plant Protection (Rome, 16 April, 1929).

The International Diplomatic Conference for Plant Protection, organised by the International Institute of Agriculture under the auspices of the Italian Government, was opened on 10 April, 1929 at the Institute. Official Delegations from the following Countries took part in the Conference:— Albania, Austria, Belgium, the Belgian Congo, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, French West Africa, Algeria, Indochina, Madagascar, Morocco, the Regency of Tunis, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, the Indian Empire, the Union of South Africa, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Cyrenaica, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, Tripoli, Latvia, Luxemburg, Norway, Paraguay, the Netherlands, the Dutch East Indies, Peru, Persia, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Switzerland and Uruguay. Experts in Plant Pathology and Agricultural Entomology were included in the Delegations. The Delegations from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, Spain, Finland, France, Morocco, the Regency of Tunis, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Cyrenaica, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland, Tripoli, Luxemburg, Norway, Paraguay, the Netherlands, the Dutch East Indies, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Switzerland and Uruguay had received full powers from their Governments or were authorised to sign "ad referendum" the International Convention for Plant Protection which should be drawn up by the Conference. A representative of the League of Nations was also present at the Conference.

The Conference adopted the draft of the Convention prepared by the Plant Protection Section of the International Institute of Agriculture as a basis for discussion and after careful examination approved the text of the following Convention, which will be dated 16 April, 1929:—

Art. 1. — The contracting Countries covenant to adopt the legislative and

administrative measures necessary to secure common and effective action against the introduction and spread of plant diseases and pests.

These measures should have special regard to:—

(1) The supervision of areas under cultivation, nurseries, gardens, green-houses and other establishments supplying the trade with plants and plant parts.

Each of the contracting Countries will draw up periodically a list of the different crops, plantations and products which are subject to this supervision.

(2) The reporting of the appearance of plant diseases and pests and the specification of the districts affected.

(3) Means of prevention and control of plant diseases and pests.

(4) The regulation of all kinds of transport and packing of plants and plant parts, it being forbidden to employ for this purpose any method or material the use of which involves any serious risk of the propagation of plant diseases or pests.

(5) The measures to be taken in case of infringement of the regulations prescribed.

Art. 2. — Each Country adhering to the present Convention will establish an official organisation for Plant Protection for the purpose of carrying out the measures indicated in Art. 1.

This official organisation will include as a minimum the following:—

(1) An establishment for scientific, technical and applied research and investigation in Microbiology and Agricultural Pathology and Zoology.

(2) An official Plant Protection Service, responsible more particularly for:—

(a) the inspection of the areas under cultivation and establishments specified in Art. 1 with the object of reporting the outbreak and spread of plant diseases and pests;

(b) the distribution of information regarding plant diseases and pests and the means of their prevention and control;

(c) the inspection of consignments of plants and plant parts;

(d) the issue of certificates relating to the health condition and origin of consignments of plants and plant parts.

Art. 3. — The measures indicated in paragraph 1 of Art. 2 should already have been carried out at the time of ratification of the present Convention or of adherence thereto. All the other measures set out in Art. 2 will be carried out in each Country at as early a date as possible and at latest within two years of the ratification of the present Convention or of adherence thereto.

Art. 4. — The contracting Countries covenant to take all steps necessary to prevent and control plant diseases and pests and to supervise the importation of plants and plant parts especially in cases where they come from Countries which have not as yet any official organisation for Plant Protection.

When the contracting Countries require that plants and plant parts proposed for importation should be accompanied by a health certificate issued by an official representative, competent and duly authorised by the exporting Country, the contracting Countries should conform to the provisions of the present Convention.

Art. 5. — The importation of such plants and plant parts as should be accompanied by a health certificate or be submitted to sanitary inspection, may take place only through specified customs offices, of which a list shall have been drawn up by the importing Country with due regard to the necessity for not impeding international trade. This list will be published by the importing Country in the official Journal in which are inserted the legislative documents and regulations

in force in the territory under its jurisdiction and communicated to exporting Countries on application.

Art. 6. — Each Country reserves its right of inspection and of quarantine of plants and plant parts or, temporarily and exceptionally, of prohibition of their importation, even when the consignments are accompanied by a health certificate. A Country which adopts a measure prohibiting importation should declare the reason.

The inspection should take place at the earliest date possible, and, in the case of perishable products, immediately, *i. e.*, as soon as the goods reach the usual places of inspection.

In cases where consignments are recognized as infected or attacked, the importing Country will immediately and by the most rapid means notify the Government of the exporting Country, which will take the measures contemplated under its own regulations. The consignments recognized as infected or attacked may be disinfected or otherwise treated in accordance with the terms of the legislation in force in each Country, or withheld or destroyed, the whole at the expense of the party liable, save that the importing country cannot in any case be held responsible for any damage caused to the consignments as the result of the action taken.

If the consignment has been destroyed an official report will be drawn up and forwarded immediately to the Government of the Country interested.

Art. 7. — Countries which under their general sanitary arrangements prohibit the importation of certain plants or plant parts should publish their decision, with reasons, in the official Journal in which are inserted the legislative documents and regulations in force in the territory under its jurisdiction and immediately notify the International Institute of Agriculture.

Art. 8. — The contracting Countries covenant not to prescribe, on grounds of plant protection, any measures prohibiting the importation or transit of plants or plant parts originating in a particular Country unless some plant disease or pest be ascertained to be actually present within the territory of the Country and there be a genuine necessity for protecting the crops of the Country responsible for the prohibition of entrance.

Art. 9. — The health certificates should conform to the model annexed to the present Convention.

Certificates will be issued in such a manner as will provide for the possibility of checking.

Each contracting Country will consider the measures to adopt so that, while securing its own protection, there may be reduced within the strictest limit the number of cases in which a health certificate will be required on the entry of products not intended for planting, such as cereals, fruits, vegetables and cut flowers.

Art. 10. — Notwithstanding the above covenants:—

(a) the importation is permitted of plants and plant parts and also of specimens showing diseases and pests and of host plants for purposes of scientific research, after authorisation by the Countries concerned, and on the understanding that the conditions under which the consignment is sent afford ample guarantees against the dispersion of the plant diseases and pests;

(b) contiguous Countries may make special arrangements to facilitate exchanges of plants and plant parts.

Art. 11. — The various contracting Countries are requested to publish in the official Journal in which the legislative documents and regulations in force in the territory under their jurisdiction are inserted and to supply the International

Institute of Agriculture, at the time of the ratification of the present Convention with a list of the plant diseases and pests against which they desire more particularly to protect themselves and which should be entered on their respective health certificates. Countries which shall adhere later will supply such a list at the time of their adherence.

This list will be kept up-to-date and any alteration should be published as specified above and immediately notified to the International Institute of Agriculture.

Art. 12. — The existence or the establishment of any official Plant Protection Service will be notified by each contracting Country to the International Institute of Agriculture.

Art. 13. — The High Contracting Parties covenant to supply to the International Institute of Agriculture the communications contemplated in Art. 9 of the International Convention of 7 June, 1905 (1) and any other communications referring to the present Convention.

Art. 14. — Every proposal for the modification of the present Convention will be communicated to the International Institute of Agriculture.

Art. 15. — The adhering States are requested to facilitate the control of plant diseases and pests by giving mutual support and for this purpose interchanging any information or means of control that they may have available.

Art. 16. — In case of disagreement regarding the interpretation of the clauses of this Convention or of difficulties of a practical nature in regard to its application, or if one Country wishes to challenge the grounds of measures prohibiting the importation of plants or plant parts coming from its own territory, one of the Parties concerned may, in agreement with the other Party, request the International Institute of Agriculture to endeavour to bring about a settlement.

For this purpose a technical Committee, to which the States concerned and the International Institute of Agriculture will each appoint an expert, will consider the question in dispute, taking into account all documents and other forms of evidence. This Committee will submit its report which the International Institute of Agriculture will communicate to the Countries concerned, complete liberty as to further action being reserved to the Governments.

(1) Art. 9 of the International Convention of 7 June, 1905:—

The Institute, confining its activities to the international sphere, shall:—

(a) collect, examine and publish, with the least possible delay, statistical, technical and economic information with regard to farming, crop and live-stock production, trade in agricultural products and the prices current on the different markets;

(b) communicate all such information to persons interested as soon as possible;

(c) indicate the wages paid for farm work;

(d) record any new diseases of crops which may have appeared in any part of the world, showing the countries affected by such diseases, their progress and, where possible, any effective measures for their control;

(e) study questions concerning agricultural co-operation, insurance and credit in all their forms; collect and publish all information that may be useful in the various countries for the organisation of systems of agricultural co-operation, insurance and credit;

(f) submit, should occasion arise, for the approval of the various Governments measures for the protection of the common interests of farmers and for the improvement of their conditions, after the preliminary study of all requisite sources of information, such as resolutions passed by international or other congresses dealing with agriculture and the sciences applied to agriculture, by agricultural societies, scientific and learned bodies, etc.

All questions affecting the economic interests, the legislation and the administration of any particular State are outside the competence of the Institute.

The Governments concerned covenant to share in common the expenses of the experts.

Art. 17. — The contracting Countries reserve, each so far as it is particularly concerned, the right to apply to the importation of plants and plant parts coming from a Country not adhering to the present Convention, all or part of the system provided by it, to the extent to which each may consider that the Plant Protection organisation in that Country genuinely provides the guarantees required, and on condition that the Country in question reciprocally applies the same system to the importation of plants and plant parts originating in and coming from the territory of the other Country.

In every case the system applied, in conformity with the provisions of this Article, to a non-adhering Country may not be of a more favourable character than that applicable under the present Convention.

Art. 18. — The contracting Countries may stipulate that the provisions of the present Convention shall be substituted for those of any other International Agreement on the question now in force, in so far as such provisions are compatible with agreements entered into with other States.

Art. 19. — The present Convention will be ratified at the earliest possible date and the ratifications will be deposited with the Italian Government.

Each ratification will be notified by the Italian Government to the other contracting Countries and also to the International Institute of Agriculture.

Art. 20. — Countries which have not signed the present Convention will be allowed to adhere to it on request.

Adherence will be notified through diplomatic channels to the Italian Government and by it to the contracting Countries and to the International Institute of Agriculture.

Art. 21. — Any contracting Country may at any time notify the Italian Government that the present Convention is applicable to all or part of its Colonies, Protectorates, Territories under Mandate, Territories under its sovereignty or authority, or all Territories under its suzerainty. The Convention will be applicable to all the Territories specified in the notification. In default of such notification the Convention will not be applicable to these Territories.

Art. 22. — The ratification or adherence will be accompanied by a formal declaration to the effect that the Country possesses as a minimum the organisation referred to in Art. 2, No. 1.

Art. 23. — The present Convention will come into force, for the three first Countries which shall have ratified it, after the lapse of six months from the date of the third ratification; for the other Countries after the lapse of six months from the respective dates of the deposit of their ratification or adherence.

Art. 24. — If one of the contracting Countries wishes to withdraw from the present Convention, either in respect to the whole of its territory or in respect only to the whole or part of its Colonies, Protectorates, Possessions or Territories referred to in Art. 21, such withdrawal should be notified to the Italian Government which will immediately notify the other adhering States and the International Institute of Agriculture and inform them of the date of the receipt of the notification.

The withdrawal will apply solely to the notifying Country or to the Colonies, Protectorates, Possessions or Territories specified in the document conveying notice of withdrawal and that only after the lapse of a year from the date when the withdrawal notice is received by the Italian Government.

(Name of Country).

OFFICIAL, PLANT PROTECTION SERVICE

Serial Number

Health and Provenance Certificate (A).

The undersigned (1)

certifies, in accordance with the results of:—

the supervision of the growing plants at the place of provenance (2)

the inspection of the products contained in the consignment (2)

that the plants or plant parts contained in the consignment indicated below are considered to be free from injurious diseases and pests and particularly from the following (3):—

DESCRIPTION OF CONSIGNMENT.

Number, weight and nature of the packages.

Marking of the packages

Description of the plants or plant parts with statement of place of cultivation (2)

Name, Christian name and address of consignor.

Name, Christian name and address of consignee

Place and date of delivery of the Certificate

Seal

Signature

(A) The consignor is reminded that for Countries which require the application of the Phylloxera Convention of Berne, 1881, the declaration provided by that Convention should also be attached to the present certificate:

(1) Name, Christian name, official status and address of the officer authorised to issue the certificate.

(2) Strike out what is not required by the importing Country.

(3) The references to the names of plant diseases and pests as given in the Official List of the importing Country, against which it desires to be more particularly protected, should be completed by the insertion of any other special condition which that Country may desire.

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES

Argentina. — In order to protect the banana plantations against infection by *Fusarium cubense* and other diseases the Ministry of Agriculture, by "resolución" No. 661 of 28 August, 1928, has prohibited the importation into the Republic of banana plants or shoots. (*Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina*, Buenos Aires, 26 de septiembre de 1928, año XXXVI, núm. 10,328, pág. 1082).

Brazil (State of São Paulo). — The Regulations for the execution of Law No. 2223 of 14 December, 1927 concerning the organisation of the State Forestry Service was approved by Decree No. 4464 of 26 September, 1928.

The powers of this Service should include among others carrying out, with or without collaboration with other Services, the control of the diseases and pests of trees and other woodland plants. (*Boletim do Ministerio da Agricultura, Industria e Commercio*, Rio de Janeiro, 1928, anno XVII, vol. II, n. 3, pags. 345-354).

Chile. — In order to avoid the introduction into the Republic of *Pyrausta nubilalis* [European corn-borer] by Ministerial Decree No. 2,526 of 28 August, 1928 the importation of maize in cob or containing any remains of cob is prohibited.

Similarly the importation of the product known locally as "rama de curagüilla" [broom corn, *Sorghum vulgare* var. *saccharatum*] is prohibited.

The importation of maize grain and of broom corn is allowed if completely freed from remains of cobs, panicles and stalks.

No merchandise of any provenance whatever may be imported if its packing material consists of straw, hay, or twigs of any plant.

The importation of liqueurs, wines and other liquids in bottles with straw casing is forbidden unless the importers can show by means of official certificates, issued by the plant sanitation authorities of the exporting country, that the straw cases have been sterilised in steam for at least 15 minutes at a temperature of 115 C., or else in formaline at 20° C. in a closed chamber. The strength of formaline used, which should contain not less than 37 % of its weight of formol, should be 500 c.c. per 20 cu. m. of air, and the straw should be submitted to its action for at least 8 hours.

The importation of glassware, crystal-ware, porcelain and pottery packed with straw is permitted on condition that the importer shall prove by means of an official certificate issued by the exporting country and endorsed by the Consul of Chile, that the packing straw has been disinfected by one of the above methods.

By "official" certificate is meant one which has been issued by the Plant Sanitary Inspection Service or by the Ministry of Agriculture of the exporting country.

Decree No. 1,011 of 19 April, 1928 and No. 1,859 of 4 July, 1928 have been annulled. (*Diario Oficial de la República de Chile*, Santiago, 6 de septiembre de 1928, núm. 15,168, págs. 4316 y 4317).

Columbia (Republic of). — In virtue of Presidential Decree No. 2247 of 23 November, 1928, all farmers are required to register annually at the office of their respective Town Clerks and in the presence of the chief official, their plantations and granaries and to report any diseases and pests occurring among them. (*Diario Oficial*, Bogotá, 3 de diciembre de 1928, año LXIV, núm. 20960, págs. 647 y 648).

* * * The Law No. 123 of 26 November, 1928 allows the Government power to engage from within or without the Republic the experts necessary to carry out throughout the country, in addition to the scientific studies and investigations specified in Law No. 83 of 22 December, 1916, which is concerned with the organ-

isation of a Scientific Commission, work including that concerning plants and their parasites and insects, also that required in the making of herbaria, collections, etc. (*Ibid.*, 30 de noviembre de 1928, núm. 20958, pág. 627).

Cuba. — The Presidential Decree No. 1752 of 22 October, 1928 prohibits the importation of used cheese-cloth for covering tobacco plantations, unless it has been thoroughly fumigated in its country of origin. An accompanying certificate issued by the competent authority and endorsed by the Consul of Cuba will be accepted as evidence. The certificate shall also state that the goods do not contain the "escarabajo japonés" (Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica* Newm.), or any other crop pest.

In default of this certificate the cloth shall, at the expense of the persons concerned, be fumigated on its arrival at Havana — the only port by which its importation is allowed — or receive such other treatment as is specified by the "Departamento de Sanidad Vegetal". (*Revista de Agricultura, Comercio y Trabajo*, Publicación mensual, órgano oficial de la Secretaría de Agricultura, Comercio y Trabajo, Habana, Cuba, 1928, año XI, vol. 10, núm. 5, pág. 47).

Spain. — The Royal Ordinance No. 124 of 24 November, 1928, which regulates the sale of seed provides, *inter alia*, that the buyer may refuse to accept merchandise and be entitled to the return of any payment he has made if the Seed Testing Station analysis shows the presence in the said merchandise of seeds of dodder in whatever quantity.

Where over 40 seeds of dodder per kilogram of seed shall have been found the buyer is entitled not only to the return of the money paid but also to the payment of the charges for the transport of the merchandise in both directions. The seller will be liable to the penalties prescribed for such cases.

Also any seed contaminated with dodder remaining in the possession of the seller will be withdrawn from sale unless it shall have been submitted to a dodder-removing process.

Consignments of seed coming from abroad shall come under the regulations in force for Spanish seed, specially those concerning their sanitary condition. In default of this their entry shall be prohibited. (*Gaceta de Madrid*, Madrid, 8 diciembre de 1928, año CCLXVII, tomo IV, núm. 343, págs. 1568 a 1571).

Mexico. — In order to prevent the introduction into the Republic of the sugar cane diseases known as "Sereh", "carbón de la caña" (*Ustilago Sacchari*), "añublo de la caña" (*Sclerospora Sacchari*) and "mancha de la caña" (*Helminthosporium Sacchari*), and any other diseases and pests unknown or rare in Mexico, by Presidential Decree of 13 September, 1928, the "Cuarentena exterior núm. 9" has been established which absolutely prohibits the importation of sugar cane cuttings unless for purposes of scientific study or use, in which case they may be imported by the "Oficina Federal para la Defensa Agrícola" or by persons having a special permit. (*Diario Oficial*, México, 10 de octubre de 1928, tomo I, núm. 32, págs. 4 y 5).

By Presidential Decree of 13 December, 1928, the following modifications and additions have been made to the list of ports and frontier stations specified in the Presidential Decree of 13 September, 1928 which established the "Cuarentena exterior núm. 8" (see this *Bulletin*, 1929, No. 3, pp. 39-40):—

on the Pacific coast: Mazatlán, Sin., Manzanillo, Col., Acapulco, Gro.;

on the southern frontier: Tapachula, Chis. (*Diario Oficial*, México, 15 de enero de 1929, tomo LII, núm. 12, pág. 1).

U. S. S. R. — The Council for Labour and Defence (STO) by Decree No. 521 of 31 August, 1928 has provided that the direction of all matters connected with the control of cotton diseases and pests shall be vested in the Principal Cotton Committee. (*Sobranie Zakonov i Rasporiazenij*, Moscwa, 27 sentiabria 1928, No 58, cmp. 1132).

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